

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the USPTO on the date shown below.

Date: March 19, 2007

Signature: _____

(Laura Shires)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/798,739

Confirmation No.: 6427

Filing Date: March 10, 2004

Inventor(s): George D. HERMANN et al.

Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR USE IN MINIMALLY INVASIVE
APPROXIMATION OF MUSCLE AND OTHER TISSUE

Examiner: M. Ryckman

Group Art Unit: 3734

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patent
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed October 18, 2006, for which a response was due November 18, 2006. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a four-month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to March 19, 2007 (March 18, 2007 falls on Sunday). Accordingly, this response is timely filed.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.